

49

*An humble Petition in behalf of the poor Children in these six Parishes, St. Martins, St. Giles's, St. Clements, St. Paul's Covent Garden, St. Mary Savoy, and part of St. Andrews Holborn.*

**W**Hereas these Parishes nigh *Westminster* are very populous of Nobility and Gentry, and an Hospital is much wanting for the educating and placing forth some of the many poor Children, who now scandalously lie about the streets, in order hereunto considerable Buildings have been bought, and raised at *Highgate* (a place unparallel'd) notwithstanding much opposition from envy in some, and self-ends in others, to Buy the Buildings, the Map or Model whereof has by consent many Noble Persons Coats of Arms Ingraven in it, signifying their approbation of, and intention to help in this so good design. Wherefore it is humbly prayed that you the Charitable Gentry and others of St. that are piously enclined, would permit yours to be Ingraven, and a little assist by Subscription, or otherways much need not be, because of the help that will come in from many good examples; your Memories will be blest by thousands of poor Children yet unborn, and this in time (in all likelyhood) may be almost as great as that of King *Edward* the sixth. All kindness down to be disposed of as the Giver, Receiver, Reverend Minister, Worshipful Church wardens or Vestry shall direct, and Subscriptions paid, as the Hospital goes on, chusing a Treasurer, or Governors if they please in each Parish. Every Contributor may freely command a Map or Model of the Buildings at any time for himself or Friend.

The Approbation for the going on of this Design may easily appear from these following Orders, and by the Benevolence, Subscriptions and Promises that many honourable and worthy Persons have already been pleased to make, which can be made appear.

At a Vestry held by the Church-wardens and Ancients of the Parish of *St. Clement Danes*.

**T**Hen Ordered and Agreed, *That upon Mr. William Blakes Proposals of compleating the Buildings at High-gate for an Hospital, and also finding and providing Masters and Mistresses to teach and instruct Children that shall be put to the said Hospital, and Servants convenient to attend them: The said Children so to be sent to the said Hospital to be maintained with meat, drink, washing, lodging, cloaths and all other necessities fit and convenient for Children, to be kept in a Hospital (as well in sickness as in health) by the said William his Executors or Assigns. We the Church-wardens and Ancients of the said Parish do promise to send to the said Hospital twenty Parish Children more or less, within one month after notice is given to this Vestry that the said Hospital so intended shall be fit for the reception of Children: And to allow and pay for each of the said Children after the rate of 6l. per Annum, and after the Children have been there one Month, to pay one months pay, and also to advance two months pay for every Child at the same time.*

Tho. Proudlow, Clerk of the Vestry.

The like agreement was made two days before with *St. Giles's Vestry*, only they pay but Quarterly, to which the reverend Dr. *Sharp* Dean of *Norwich* was a witness, who hath promised 6l. per Annum, as an Addition to the Parish rates for the maintenance of two Children during life. And the reverend Dr. *Haiscard* hath done the like for *St. Clements*.

This agreement is supposed to be but till a better Government or Method be fallen into by persons of Quality out of each Parish. Threescore Suits and thirty Beds are provided, a Master got and contracted with: but the want of a little Money has somewhat stopt this good and pious Work; therefore it is still prayed, and earnestly desired, That you would lend a little Assistance in order to the Compleating a thing of such general good, much wanted; being the best Design that ever was Attempted for their Poor Children, since these six Parishes above mentioned were in being. One hundred pound from each Vestry, or Parishoners, would prevent the fears of any miscarriage, and compleat the New Buildings this Summer also.

For the Encouragement of this Design I do subscribe to give towards Raising, Endowing, and carrying of it on, the Sum of